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FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE ON NUCLEAR GUIDELINES ASSESSED

FY100312 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Apr 79 p 7 FY

[Editorial: "Nuclear Policy"]

[Text] Through a note of the Argentine Foreign Ministry the government has established guidelines for its actions in the field of nuclear energy. This note sums up the conclusion reached at a meeting attended by official experts on the subject, such as the president of the National Atomic Energy Commission, and ambassadors and diplomatic representatives to some American and European nations interested in participating in Argentina's nuclear program. As is well known, Argentina's nuclear program involves the construction of four nuclear plants to be operational by 1985, and the first stage of the plan deals with one-third of the construction of these plants.

The main points of this official note include our country's decision to attain self-sufficiency in the field of nuclear energy and the reaffirmation that the program in question is designed exclusively for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. Both statements complement each other because the latter guarantees the former by assuaging the suspicions of those who may think that our nuclear development could have objectives other than those stated.

The Foreign Ministry note also emphasizes the significance which is allotted to nuclear cooperation with developing, and especially Latin American, nations.

This is no more than a confirmation of what has been actually taking place for some time. It suffices to recall the accord signed with Peru to install a nuclear center in that country, the cooperation accord signed with Ecuador and the agreement with Uruguay by which a 310-mw nuclear plant--an output only slightly less than Atucha I--will be installed in that country by 1990. All this clearly substantiates the position attained by Argentina in this important branch of scientific activity as a result of sustained and protracted effort toward a high degree of specialization which has certainly placed Argentina at the forefront of Latin American nations.

On the basis of all this and in order to fully assess the tasks performed in this area, we must bear in mind that prior to the decree 22,498 issued by the revolutionary government on 19 September 1956--granting autonomy to the National Atomic Energy Commission--the activities of this organization were more adventurous and spectacular than seriously directed toward the significant objectives for which it had been created. This situation makes the progress we have mentioned even more significant.

Thus, the meeting we have discussed has been positive, both for the reaffirmation of the principles upheld by our government in such a sensitive area and for the prospects it opens for the country's future nuclear development.

However, in view of the serious situation which recently cropped up at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, it will be necessary to exercise extreme caution and care in the implementation of the nuclear plan. The fact that the dramatic event we mention took place precisely in the country having the most advanced expertise in this complex field of scientific and technological knowledge clearly demonstrates the risks and dangers involved in the use and handling of nuclear material.

CUBAN FINANCE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH VIDELA

PY100206 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2353 GMT 9 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (TELAM)--Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla will meet tomorrow with Cuban Minister President of the State Committee for Finance Francisco Garcia Valls, who arrived in the capital this afternoon. The meeting--scheduled for 1045 at the president's office--will also be attended by Cuban Ambassador in Argentina Emilio Aragonés Navarro, Cuban diplomat Carlos Amat and former Argentine Ambassador to Cuba Francisco Molina Salas.

INFLATION INCREASED 7.7 PERCENT IN MARCH

PY100224 Buenos Aires Radio Belgrano in Spanish 0130 GMT 10 Apr 79 PY

[Text] During March the average level of consumer price indexes increased 7.7 percent over the February levels. At the same time, the average price levels for wholesale transactions increased 7.9 percent, while construction costs increased 9.6 percent.

BALBIN EXHORTS UCR YOUTH TO 'BATTLE' FOR DEMOCRACY

PY062232 Paris AFP in Spanish 1351 GMT 6 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (AFP)--Ricardo Balbin, president of the Radical Civic Union [UCR]--Argentina's second most powerful political force--has stated that concrete facts showing evidence of redemocratization will be needed in the country this year.

In a speech to his party's youth (the UCR's ideology is akin to social democracy) Balbin stated that the political parties--whose activities have been suspended here--must be urgently organized "as the vital medicine for a seriously ill patient."

He added that if the government does not agree to reactivate the parties and fails to produce concrete deeds aimed at redemocratization, "it will no longer be my battle, but yours." He clarified, however, that "should this be the case, I will be 'en gard' standing behind all of you."

Balbin also said that "this is probably going to be my last public speech; I will attend the next meetings to listen to the generation which has the moral duty to supersede us." This latter statement was interpreted as an announcement of this veteran Radical leader's retirement from the presidency of the party which he has been leading for 30 years.

Balbin has been one of the leaders who felt more favorably inclined toward the military government which took over on 24 March 1976.

However, in recent months he increased his criticisms especially concerning the failure to reactivate political parties and the economic and social policy.

In his speech, the political leader indicated that the continuation of the latter policy can unleash significant social disturbances.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO CURB PROLIFERATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

PY071513 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0408 GMT 7 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 6 Apr (LATIN)--The military government junta today ordered heavy fines and even imprisonment for the leaders of political parties which do not obtain a minimum of 50,000 ballots in the forthcoming 1 July elections. The decision is contained in a decree approved by the Cabinet "in view of the proliferation of political parties which have been registered," Marcelo Céspedes, president of the National Electoral Court, said.

Fifty-seven political parties and civic organizations have registered at the Electoral Court with the intention of participating in the elections to be held on the first Sunday in July. Political analysts believe this number of parties is "exaggerated" for 2 million voters. Even Gen David Padilla, president of the military junta, has expressed his "concern" over the excessive number of parties. He commented: "Many of them are nothing but a gathering of some four people which in fact does not have the structure of a party."

In view of this "staggering picture" of party proliferation, the government has found itself compelled to order that a political group which does not obtain 50,000 ballots in the elections "will have to pay the cost of the elections," Electoral Court President Marcelo Céspedes told LATIN. Céspedes commented: "Democratization will cost Bolivia almost \$2 million (slightly over 40 million Bolivian pesos) spent by the state at a time of difficulties for the economy of the nation."

The government and the National Electoral Court believe that this severe measure--to be supervised by the state comptroller's office, which is in charge of scrutinizing state expenditures--will cause many political groups with few members "to think twice before they request ballots to be printed and their candidates registered."

NEW ALLIANCE ENHANCES PAZ ESTENSSORO CANDIDACY

PY092224 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1745 GMT 9 Apr 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 9 Apr (TELAM-APE)--The presidential candidacy of one of Bolivia's veteran political leaders, Victor Paz Estenssoro, has been strengthened through the creation of a broad center-left alliance which will support Paz Estenssoro in the elections scheduled for 1 July. The Historical branch of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNRH), the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the Authentic Revolutionary Party (FRA) and the Revolutionary Front of the Left (FRI) today signed a political merger. The agreement was signed during a rally of members of the four political forces, coinciding with the 27th anniversary of the 1952 revolution. Through this political merger, Paz Estenssoro becomes one of the strongest candidates for the presidency.

The political rally also established the electoral ticket which will be supported by the merger. It will be comprised of Victor Paz Estenssoro and Luis Ossio. The inclusion of the Christian Democratic Party in the alliance provides Paz Estenssoro's candidacy with a great deal of prestige, especially in the eyes of the moderate sectors. At the same time, the participation of the FRI is aimed at obtaining the support of the Bolivian left, especially the youth.

The MNRH is one of Bolivia's traditional parties which--27 years ago under the leadership of Paz Estenssoro--launched a broad process aimed at changing the social and economic structures of the country. Once the coalition is firmed up, Paz Estenssoro, supported by Christian Democrat Luis Ossio, will launch an intensive electoral campaign throughout the country.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE RELEASED ON SCHMIDT VISIT

PY100214 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 5 Apr 79 p 4 PY

[Joint communique issued at the closing of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's visit to Brasilia on 4 April]

[Excerpts] At the invitation of President of the Federative Republic of Brazil Joao Baptista Figueiredo and his wife, FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and his wife officially visited Brazil from 3 to 7 April 1979.

During the visit of the FRG delegation, Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro and FRG Foreign Minister Peter Hermes signed an agreement on maritime transport and a complementary note. Two other notes on financial cooperation were also signed by the foreign ministers of Brazil and the FRG.

On analyzing the international situation, President Figueiredo and Chancellor Schmidt reaffirmed their determination to support peace, to strengthen international security and to promote cooperation among nations. They also reaffirmed the need to revitalize the policy of relaxing international tensions and stated that such a policy should be a single and worldwide one. They reiterated their adherence to the principles of the UN Charter and to the peaceful solution of international differences as provided for under that charter. The Brazilian president and the FRG chancellor expressed their firm support for the principles of sovereignty and equality among the states, banishing threats or the use of force in international relations, as well as for the principle of noninterference in internal affairs. President Figueiredo and Chancellor Schmidt stated that guaranteeing human rights is one of the permanent objectives of the policies of their respective governments.

President Figueiredo and Chancellor Schmidt expressed their profound concern over the world inflationary trend and the spreading of protectionist policies of all kinds which affect the interests of developing countries. They agreed that efforts must continue to create a just and equitable international economic order. They also agreed on the need to continuously intensify and broaden relations between Brazil and the EEC.

President Figueiredo and Chancellor Schmidt noted the need to increasingly diversify relations between the two countries, always striving to achieve an equilibrium in the advantages to be derived from reciprocal cooperation. To that effect and in reviewing the question of cooperation in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful uses, they expressed their satisfaction over the results achieved thus far and their determination to fully implement the agreements concluded between the two countries. Recognizing the diversity inherent in German-Brazilian relations, the president and the chancellor reaffirmed the importance and the current validity of the notes signed and exchanged on 16 June 1978, providing for periodic consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries.

The Brazilian president and the FRG chancellor reviewed the status of implementation of the basic technical cooperation agreement signed on 30 November 1963 and the cultural agreement and the general agreement on scientific research and technological development signed on 9 June 1969, concluding that such instruments have promoted valuable experience in joint efforts and mutual confidence. In that context, they reaffirmed their decision to continue implementing such agreements with dynamism.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt expressed thanks for the hospitality extended to him and his delegation in Brazil.

Brasilia, 4 April 1979

MEDIATION DELEGATION TO LEAVE FOR ROME AFTER EASTER

PY100245 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0025 GMT 10 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 9 Apr (LATIN)--Foreign Ministry sources today reported that the special representative of the Chilean military government for the papal mediation in the border dispute between Argentina and Chile in the southern region, Ambassador Enrique Bernstein Caravantes, will leave for Rome after Holy Week festivities. Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos is now studying appointments for the mission which will deliver to Pope John Paul II the documents on the Argentine-Chilean border problem.

FIRST NUCLEAR POWER CENTRAL TO BE CONSTRUCTED

PY072029 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1904 GMT 7 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 7 Apr (LATIN)--Col Marmaduke Abarzua, executive director of the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission, has said here that Chile will begin building its first nuclear power central at the beginning of next year, taking advantage of the situation of self-sufficiency in uranium (yellow cake U-2 O8) for the installation and in accordance with the government plans in this field.

The official added that the research made by the organization he heads regarding the various options to generate energy confirm the urgent need to add a nuclear central to the interconnecting electrical network.

He explained that the outlook has become much more encouraging since the national plan of prospecting for radioactive minerals initiated in 1974 has yielded positive results with the detection of uranium. He explained that the first samples of the mineral extracted during experimental operations at Chuquicamata are now in the hands of the National Nuclear Energy Commission and that the analysis of their potential has been fruitful.

He rejected any idea that the project might have any warlike aims or any intention to use the energy for purposes which are not peaceful. He stressed: "We do not think or have ever thought of this alternative."

LABOR MINISTER DISCUSSES LETTER FROM AFL-CIO LEADER

PY061713 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Apr 79 PY

[Text] The government will not respond to the provocation of high-sounding statements such as those made by Eduardo Rios, Labor Minister Jose Pinera said when talking about a letter he had sent to the AFL-CIO leader (Edward Lee). The letter was in answer to a prior note sent by (Lee) expressing concern over the lack of participation of some union leaders in the implementation of the government labor plan. Pinera said:

[Begin Pinera recording] In my letter I answered the only concern expressed by (Lee) over Chile's labor plan--that is, what we mean by participation. I want to make this clear to prevent capricious (?interpretations) because--at least according to his letter--(Mr Lee) does not seem to be dissatisfied with the development of the labor plan. He merely pointed out that he would like to know in detail what the government means by participation.

In this regard I told him in my letter, which unfortunately I cannot show you because in my opinion it is private correspondence and I will not release either the original letter or the answer [sentence as received]. If others want to go ahead and do so I would not mind, but I believe it is not up to me to release a letter which I thought was private. I will however mention the following paragraph of Mr (Lee's) letter because I believe it is the only one which expresses some concern regarding participation. Mr Lee said, more or less, that some leaders were being summoned by the government and listened to, but their opinions were not applied to anything (?concrete).

I answer in the following manner: The complex nature of the issue which is being studied and the variety of proposals submitted force the government to make an in-depth study which will result in a set of rules that will be harmonious and not detrimental to the Chilean people's desire for justice, freedom and progress.

We understand the role of workers' and businessmen's organizations but the government cannot abdicate its legislative power in favor of these organizations without endangering large sectors of the population which have no organizations to support them. Nor can the government abdicate and allow itself to be lead by those who believe that participation means veritable cogovernment.

Thus, the government feels that its duty is to listen to and seriously study the proposals submitted by the various groups, some specific groups or all of them. The government's duty is to reconcile group interests to seek the common good. This will also prevent the issuance of contradictory and discriminatory laws which favor some groups and harm others. [end recording]

The minister also said that the government must take into account the opinions of grass-roots leaders who do not have many opportunities for being heard at the domestic and foreign levels. He stressed that he does not consider (Lee's) note a threat.

[Begin Pinera recording] I do not see it as a threat. It is merely a letter which expresses some concern in a tone reflecting a desire for clarification. This clarification was provided in my answer and I do not believe this letter has the meaning [words indistinct]. His letter was sent on 8 March and I answered it in March.

So why does it come up now? Merely because Mr Rios has returned from the United States and every time he comes back with his hands empty he tries to provoke the government by disseminating lies and making capricious interpretations, trying to elicit some response from the government. But the government will not give Mr Rios any answer. The government's answer to the needs of the Chilean people is implementing the labor plan whose deadline is 30 June. The freedom to meet and establish a union contributions scale has been granted 4 months in advance. The freedom to meet is functioning very well and proof of this can be found in the newspapers which report the meeting of union leaders. In fact, I dedicated a congress of metal workers just last Friday without any trouble at all, and one of the things discussed on the occasion was the fact that the congress was made possible thanks to the decrees issued as part of the labor plan. [end recording]

Minister Pinera concluded by stating that the letter of the AFL-CIO leader changes nothing because the only concern he expresses is in regard the meaning of participation and this was clarified in the minister's answer.

GROUP OF 10 PRESSING FOR RENEWAL OF RIGHTS

PY050328 Paris AFP in Spanish 1950 GMT 4 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 4 Apr (AFP)--A group of union leaders asserted today that Chilean workers have begun to mobilize throughout the country for the objective of achieving a restoration of their rights. We want to reconquer our rights and because of this we are mobilizing all our grassroots and committees, leaders of the group of 10 stated. This organization groups union leaders who oppose the labor policy of the government presided over by General Augusto Pinochet.

Union freedoms were suspended in Chile 5 years ago after the overthrow of the late socialist President Salvador Allende, but last January the government announced a program to gradually restore these freedoms.

Eduardo Rios, one of the leaders of the Group of 10, today criticized this program and added that the stage of letters and statements has been left behind. Rios announced that the Group of 10 might join other union movements which oppose the official labor policy.

JUDGE IN LONQUEN CASE DEFERS TO MILITARY COURTS

PY062117 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1852 GMT 6 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 6 Apr (LATIN)--The civilian judge who was handling the investigation into the discovery of 15 bodies in a lime mine declared today his incompetence to deal with the case and submitted the background material to military courts, according to information released by local court sources today.

Judge Adolfo Banados' decision is allegedly based on the fact that "members of the military community, or persons related to this community, appear to be involved in the case which is being investigated," according to what court sources told the journalists. It was also explained that Banados' decision will be studied soon by the military judge of Santiago. This judge will either accept the case or declare himself incompetent as well. In that case, it will be up to the Supreme Court to appoint someone to deal with the case.

Before declaring himself incompetent the judge studied the report sent by the Institute of Legal Medicine on the human remains found in the Lonquen lime mine, 45 km southeast of Santiago.

BRIEFS

COPPER SALES--Calama, Chile, 2 Apr (AFP)--The Chilean Copper Corporation (CODELCO) reported that copper sales during 1978 reached \$1.313 billion. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0328 GMT 3 Apr 79 PY]

FEBRERISTA PARTY PAPER RESPONDS TO STROESSNER ADDRESS

PY052156 Asuncion EL PUEBLO in Spanish 5 Apr 79 p 3 PY

[Editorial: "Contradictions and Omissions in the President's Message"]

[Text] The president's message, read at the opening of the new regular session of the National Congress, tries to hide the reality of the nation under trappings of false optimism by unilaterally emphasizing and overvaluing the material aspect of "government achievements" which is only one of the manifold facets of the nation's problems.

Nevertheless, the contradictions contained in the message help to complete the true picture of the national drama by putting things in their right place and giving them their true proportions.

As has become habitual on such occasions, the democratic multiparty system was swept aside with the usual political sectarianism that artificially divides the nation into government supporters and subversives, while considering that the only reality of "the Paraguayan democracy" is the "national republican association--Colorado Party" and that democratic opposition does not exist, except "certain small opposition groups without influence among the people."

Any government project for the "social and economic progress of the nation" is positive. What should be criticized is not the things that have been done, but those that have been omitted, because no measures will be sufficient as long as the country continues to be economically bogged down in underdevelopment and dependency; as long as, socially, the glorious Chaco War veterans continue on the brink of destitution, because the government will not grant them "pensions" to allow them to live decently; as long as the university, in the field of education, cannot absorb thousands of undergraduates, because the state does not provide it with enough funds for its normal development; and as long as it is not possible to start anything in the political field, because we have still not entered the road of democracy.

Much is made of "the stability of the purchasing power of the national currency." But it is admitted without embarrassment that "spending by the Central Bank increased by 46.4 percent," which triggered the worst inflationary spiral we have known, whose evil consequences are still being endured by all the people and which has caused both the purchasing power of the guarani and the myth of monetary stability to collapse.

The "balanced financial policy" is also shown off, while it was impossible to avoid admitting that, during Fiscal Year 1978, "ordinary incomes were surpassed by 8,011,600,000 guaranies, that is, 34 percent of the budget estimate for that year," which means that the vaunted financial equilibrium was nothing but a brutal disequilibrium, contrary to all good financial policy, and an uncontrolled and abusive increase of taxes with which the long-suffering Paraguayan people were punished.

It is recognized that "we are experiencing an era characterized by democratic coexistence," but it is not said when such assertions as "the Constitution is faithfully respected" will cease to be "lyrical declarations" and when "democratic coexistence" will begin in this country.

For this to happen it is necessary to begin by dismantling the police organization for repressing the people; by repealing the freedom-killing laws No 209 and No 294; by lifting the customary state of siege, which has become so cherished, so that the people may at last enjoy constitutional guarantees; by modifying the tricky electoral statute in order to guarantee free and clean elections; by decreeing a broad and general amnesty without exceptions so that a million exiled Paraguayans may return to their native country; by respecting the independence of the judicial branch and making it worthy of respect by appointing honest and competent judges; by guaranteeing the free interplay of the political parties, giving all of them equal opportunities to hold public meetings and have access to the news media; by putting an end to the hateful party discrimination and opening the doors of public administration and military and police careers to all citizens without any other requirement than ability and honesty.

Only a government of, by and for the people which harmoniously promotes the full development of the nation on all levels will be able to make a yearly report containing more work achieved than neglected.

CONCERN OVER LOSS OF LAND IN DAM PROJECT EXPRESSED

PY061745 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Apr 79 p 12 PY

[Excerpt] According to reliable sources, the Argentine Government could be delaying awarding the contract for building the bridge over the Ana-Cua channel and the contract for the construction of more than 1,000 houses in the zone of the Ayolas-Ituzaingo projects, whose cost surpasses \$6 million, to force our country to abandon its desire to change the layout of the dam to avoid greater flooding of our territory.

Meanwhile, the delegation of the Yacyreta binational organization which is in Washington continues negotiating a loan with officials of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to be used by the Yacyreta enterprise. The Paraguayan delegates (Carlos A. Saldivar, Cesar Romeo Acosta and others) and the Argentine delegates have begun talks to show IBRD executives and experts that the change in the dam's layout will not cause any problem for the project.

According to the current layout, Paraguay must give up 1,004 square km of fertile land which will be flooded by the lake of the future dam as opposed to 204 square km of Argentine land. The difference is great, a spokesman of the binational organization said, and the damage it will cause Paraguay will be equally great. For this reason the layout of the dam must be changed.

BRIEFS

RADICAL LIBERAL PARTY CONVENTION--The Radical Liberal Party has announced the preparations are underway to hold a party convention on 22 April 1979 aimed at strengthening the divided party. [Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 6 Apr 79 p 2 PY]

CRITICA URGES CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF TREATIES

PA091625 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 9 Apr 79 p 3 FA

[Editorial: "U.S. Lower Chamber Insults President Carter"]

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives, where many congressmen of lesser rank are spokesmen for imperialistic groups, has just decided by a wide vote margin that it will not grant Panama any economic aid. A social assistance credit, which had been endorsed by AID and the Panamanian Government, was rejected. That rejection has been described by the ASSOCIATED PRESS as a slap at the Panama Canal treaties.

According to another report, the House of Representatives voted 246 to 150 to reduce [as published] all U.S. aid to Panama except the \$1.5 million that is to go toward the "Food for Peace" program.

According to the State Department, the House of Representatives unjustified suspension of aid to Panama might very seriously affect the great national interests currently prevailing in U.S. foreign policy.

The House voted on that small \$1.7 [as published] million amount the day before [rejecting social assistance credit], after rejecting a \$5 million credit for the purchase of weapons last week. This arms purchase is vital for the Panamanian public force, precisely because on 1 October it will begin participating in the defense of the canal. Bear in mind that in the integration achieved in the performance of that joint military activity by the two countries lies the key to a successful effort that will gradually be expanded until the U.S. troops withdraw totally on 31 December 1999. That is the final deadline for the presence of foreign military forces in our fatherland. After that, what used to be known as the zone and the interoceanic canal itself will belong to our country which will be simply recovering that which has always belonged to it historically.

But it is advisable to continue with the process of implementing the Torrijos-Carter treaties. For our part, we are sure that preparations are even more advanced than the most judicious estimates. We should enter the zone simply and peacefully--since we are going to recover a house that had been seized from us. But there are an endless number of problems that need to be resolved because a transition of this type cannot be conducted magically. Instead, it must be prepared with exceptional care, particularly for as long as Panamanians and Zionians must coexist in peace and with the positive attitude of good neighbors.

Just as the lower chamber has insulted President Carter, who will not know how to return the blow, it is our duty to continue advancing, to continue studying all the problems inherent in integration and to remain attentive to whatever is said or done by the representatives, who still believe in the domineering ideas of Teddy Roosevelt.

Now, Jimmy Carter is an honest, intelligent and sagacious man. He will wrap more than one of those reckless representatives around his little finger, but the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties will continue because it is already impossible to silence it. The honorable representatives know well that despite their many chances to make foolish moves, it is better--for the sake of their own moral health--to try to play clean.

TORRIJOS' DAUGHTER JOINS POPULAR BROAD FRONT PARTY

PA091945 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 5 Apr 79 pp 26, 44 PA

[Popular Broad Front Party communique to Panamanian youth; date not given]

[Excerpt] The news about the registration of Miss Raquel Torrijos Pausner [daughter of Gen Omar Torrijos, National Guard chief] has been a big surprise for the Popular Broad Front Party (FRAMPO) directors. It is a surprise that fills the heart of a whole party with joy. FRAMPO is deeply moved by the large number of youths from both sexes who have responded to our call for unity.

Abdiel Abrego Ramos, FRAMPO information coordinator

PANAMA INVITED TO HAVANA NONALINED SUMMIT

PA070137 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 6 Apr 79 PA

[Text] President Aristides Royo has received a formal invitation to attend the 6th summit of heads of state and governments of the nonaligned nations to be held in Havana 3-7 September 1979.

Francisco Garcia Valls, minister president of the State Finance Committee and special envoy of Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, presented the invitation during a meeting held with Royo at the Presidential Palace.

President Royo thanked him for the invitation and wished success to the Cuban Government in the organization and development of the sixth summit of nonaligned nations.

SPADAFORA RECALLED TO NICARAGUA BY EDEN PASTORA

PA070141 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 6 Apr 79 PA

[Text] This afternoon, well-informed sources told this station that Hugo Spadafora has had to leave for Nicaragua with Nicaraguan guerrilla leader Eden Pastora.

According to the source, Spadafora went to Nicaragua at the request of Commander Cero, Eden Pastora, who came to Panama specifically to get him. Everything seems to indicate that with the announced vacation of Anastasio Somoza, the Sandinist National Liberation Front plans to increase its guerrilla activities to overthrow the Somoza regime.

The source added that when Spadafora completes his mission in Nicaragua he will return to Panama to await orders to go to Namibia with a Panamanian military group.

COSTA RICA

HEAVY SHOOTING HEARD AT NICARAGUAN BORDER

PA091754 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Heavy shooting could be heard last night and early this morning on the Nicaraguan side of the northern border, the Costa Rican northern command has reported. This is the first occurrence of this type recorded in the past few weeks. The shots heard were basically from medium-range and long-range weapons.

EL SALVADOR

COMMUNIQUE RELEASED ON SHOE FACTORY VIOLENCE

PA092100 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1745 GMT 9 Apr 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--One dead, 8 injured and 13 persons arrested is the official toll of the incidents that occurred here last Friday when the Security Corps emptied the Adoc shoe factory. The plant had been occupied by the company's workers, who were demanding a number of benefits. According to the official report released here today, a group of Adoc workers, instigated by subversive elements, seized the industrial installations to press for wage increases with the obvious intention of disrupting social peace. The group took several persons hostage to provide more force to their demands, the official document notes.

According to the Security Corps, at 1720 (2320 GMT) its agents asked the strikers by means of loudspeakers to evacuate the factory so it might resume its normal activities. The document affirms that the purpose was to evacuate the plant peacefully and through the use of persuasion. The document adds that in response to this suggestion, the persons occupying the factory opened fire on the Security Corps, using weapons of various calibers. In view of this attack, the Security Corps was forced to open fire to repel the attack. It adds that several of the persons occupying the factory left the place during the shootout. When order was reestablished and the factory was evacuated, the Security Corps arrested 13 persons. Five men and three women were slightly injured and the body of Jose Adalberto Gomez was found on the eastern side of the factory.

Finally, the communique explains that the Security Corps' action was carried out in accordance with the constitutional mandate that imposes on them the duty of maintaining public order and guaranteeing constitutional rights in order to prevent subversive groups from achieving their purpose of destroying the juridical order.

DECREE ON CULTIVATION OF BASIC GRAINS ISSUED

PA100413 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 3 Apr 79 pp 3,15 PA

[Excerpt] A recent presidential decree establishes that 5 percent of all areas devoted to sugarcane and cotton must be used to grow basic grains. It was affirmed that the implementation of this decree will be supervised by agents of the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry.

According to official sources, the measure in question proved in previous years that it was beneficial for the diet, especially that of the peasants who work in the sugarcane and cotton fields. The sources added that the measure allows a greater availability of basic grains for the consumption of the population in general.

GUATEMALA

MEXICO OFFERS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PETROLEUM MATTERS

PA092352 Paris AFP in Spanish 1946 GMT 9 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Apr (AFP)--Mexico and Guatemala have agreed to conduct a joint program if petroleum is discovered in some border area, Jorge Luis Monzon, mining and hydrocarbons secretary general, revealed here today.

Monzon's statements were made following a 2-day visit here by Jorge Diaz Serrano, Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] director general.

The Mexican official offered Guatemala technical assistance in petroleum matters, Monzon said. No new sales of diesel or gasoline to Guatemala were agreed upon, he added.

Guatemala is expecting the arrival today of the tanker Presidente Calles, which should bring 100,000 barrels of diesel for the government's powerplants. A scarcity of diesel has necessitated energy rationing in this country since last Wednesday.

NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY FOR VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM SUPPLY

PA100227 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Mining and hydrocarbons officials left for Venezuela recently to negotiate for possible aid to Guatemala regarding the supply of fuel critically needed by this country. The shortage has had a detrimental effect on the national economy and local officials are optimistic regarding a favorable reply from the Venezuelan authorities.

NICARAGUA

FIGHTING ERUPTS IN NORTH; ESTELI CAPTURED BY FSLN

Esteli Commander Replaced

PA091915 Paris AFP in Spanish 1850 GMT 9 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 9 Apr (AFP)--A correspondent of the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA reported here today that the city of Esteli, 150 km north of Managua, is in the hands of about 500 Sandinists

A caravan of cars flying white flags left the city today as people fear that a large-scale battle will be waged again in the city as happened in September 1978.

The army General Staff held an urgent meeting today to analyze what is described by some news media as a serious rebel outbreak in north and northeastern Nicaragua.

It was officially announced at noon today that Gen Gonzalo Martinez had been relieved of his command in Esteli. The order was effective immediately. Col Vicente Zuniga, who is considered one of the army's best counterinsurgency experts, replaced him.

According to travellers from Esteli, the bodies of three soldiers were burned in the center of the city today.

Army information officer Col Aquiles Arando told newsmen that only a small cell is resisting in Esteli and it could be overcome in the course of this day.

Shots from different weapons were heard over the telephone today. The guerrillas set up their general headquarters in a banking office and spoke to Managua newsmen over the telephone. A guerrilla who identified himself only as "Pocho" said that Esteli had been taken with new tactics that call for avoiding an attack against the main city barracks and isolating the army units in the outlying districts. He said his squad killed three soldiers in the fighting.

He added that the taking of Esteli had been ordered by the northern command of the Sandinist front on Sunday morning and the operation was completed at 1500.

Pocho announced that 15 guerrillas who were occupying the Esteli hospital left at noon, thereby turning it into a neutral zone and preventing the army from attacking it. There are many wounded and sick in the hospital.

The guerrilla said the force that occupied Esteli belongs to the Prolonged People's War faction of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Other sources reported by telephone that the guerrillas appear to be equipped with more powerful arms than those used during the September 1978 war. Meanwhile, it was reported that during weekend fighting an Israeli Avra bomber had been destroyed.

Somoza Reaction

PA092324 Paris AFP in English 2253 GMT 9 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Topeka, Kansas, April 9 (AFP)--Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza today rejected any comparison between his country and Iran in the wake of reports that Sandinist rebels controlled the northern town of Esteli.

The president, here at the start of an officially termed Easter holiday trip to the United States, told newsmen, I am an elected president, the shah was a dynasty. He added that he would return to Nicaragua next Monday.

The president described reported fighting in northern and north-eastern Nicaragua as a last ditch effort to overthrow the government.

The Sandinist rebels were throwing their last cards now, he said, adding that the country was under control. The rebels did not have the support of the people, he said.

General Somoza said he was unable to confirm the fall to the rebels of (?Esteli), a town 150 kms (95 miles) north of the capital, Managua. But he said a C-47 transport plane belonging to his National Guard had been forced to land after being hit by [words indistinct]. He also accused Costa Rica of helping the rebels.

The president, who seemed very relaxed, met newsmen in his hotel with his son Julio who is currently studying at Topeka University. The general said he would be flying on to Florida tomorrow for a six-day visit.

Situation Report

PA100130 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0042 GMT 10 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The insurgent forces that entered Esteli, 150 km north of Managua, yesterday afternoon have been estimated to number about 300 guerrillas. According to reports, it is estimated that the insurgents "are getting stronger" in the urban part of the northern city.

This afternoon, alleged guerrillas arrived at "El Bajio," the city's red-light district, where they set fire to bars and whorehouses. The day passed without major fighting but several minor harassment activities against the quartered garrison were reported. No casualties were reported.

Additional reports revealed that rebels attacked the TELCOR (state telephone company) building with contact bombs and very powerful nipple bombs, but the insurgents have not taken over the building in Esteli even though they caused an unspecified amount of property damage.

The National Guardsmen quartered in Esteli did not do much today. However, more reinforcements arrived from Managua by plane. (The Esteli airport is in the hands of the army loyal to the government.) At the same time, part of the troops quartered in Esteli left for Managua. It is believed that a clash occurred in La Trinidad, a city located south of Esteli.

It was learned in this capital that a Sherman tank with military reinforcements was on its way to the northern part of the country this afternoon, presumably headed for Esteli. There are two armored personnel carriers in that northern city.

Other reports indicate that armed insurgents robbed an Esteli bank of an unspecified amount of money, estimated at thousands of cordobaes.

Northwest Region Bombed

PA100131 Paris AFP in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 9 Apr (AFP)--A squadron of military planes bombed the country's northwest today, it was learned here today by listening to radio messages exchanged by the pilots during the action. According to the same sources, the bombing was conducted against Sandinist guerrilla groups operating in the region that have been very active over the past 48 hours. The guerrillas' area of action comprises approximately 400 square km and includes 4 departments in the country's north and northwest.

According to the shortwave transmissions heard at 1700 (2300 GMT), the bombing was very heavy but they had not achieved their goal of trapping the guerrillas. The ham operators who heard the conversations said that two helicopters, two twin-engine planes and one C-42 bomber participated in the action. One of the pilots said that he had dropped his bomb but another said that his had jammed when he tried to drop it over the target area.

Apparently, conversations could also be heard between the pilots and Sandinist groups, which contacted the pilots by using powerful radios.

The conversations between the Sandinists and the military pilots occurred while the planes were overflying the Rio Grande region, 150 km northwest of Managua. The guerrillas apparently have very powerful equipment, which permits them to intercept the radios in the planes.

Conversation With Guerrillas

PA100141 Paris AFP in Spanish 0044 GMT 10 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 9 Apr (AFP)--Esteli residents who sought refuge at the city hospital asked for the intercession of the head of the Nicaraguan church today lest the city be razed in a tug-of-war between the army and the guerrillas.

The request was disclosed during a telephone conversation with Alejandro Davila, the doctor in charge of the Esteli hospital who called Managua to ask that an urgent donation of disinfectant be sent to the hospital.

During a telephone conversation with newsmen, the guerrillas reiterated that they are in complete control of the city and that they have defeated the army by taking over the (?center) of Esteli. Claiming military secrecy, they refused to comment on whether they plan to hold Esteli at any price or if, when the army counterattacks, they will effect a tactical retreat.

They also announced that they expect similar uprisings in Managua and the city of Leon, 90 km west of the capital.

During the conversation with Dr Davila it was confirmed that 12 dead and 11 injured persons were taken to the hospital, but he added that the number of victims is much higher. He said that several children are among the victims and that their bodies contain shrapnel from the rockets fired by military aircraft. Red Cross spokesmen said this afternoon that the organization is planning to evacuate the largest possible number of civilian inhabitants to prevent a massacre when the army tries to evict the guerrillas from the city.

Radio Sandino Reportage

PA100500 (Glandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0400 GMT 10 Apr 79 PA

[Text] From the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Western Front, our guerrilla columns under the (?leadership of) Commander Ruben report that the cities of Achuapa and El Sauce were taken over by our comrades for 2 days and they destroyed the hideout where the Somoza guard was quartered. [Words indistinct] specific data on the number of deaths caused by our columns to the enemy but noted that at least four National Guardsmen were killed in El Sauce alone.

The injured comrades on our side are being cared for and we will disclose data on this action later. Somoza aircraft resorted to the indiscriminate bombing of El Sauce in a genocidal action similar to that taken last September in several cities. Fighting against the Somoza guard is currently underway in the aforementioned areas. It is also reported that (?nine) Somoza planes have been downed with antiaircraft artillery by our columns.

From the Carlos Fonseca Amador Northern Front, an attack was reported on the cities of Esteli, (Talacaguina) and Condega, where many casualties have been sustained by the enemy. It was also reported that 18 rifles of various types and calibers have been taken from the enemy.

On the other hand, near the city of Condega, the downing of a C-47 plane of the Somoza airforce has been reported to us. All over this area our guerrilla columns are acting under Cmdr German Pomares Ordonez.

Reports from the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front say that the battle is taking place against the hounds of the Infantry Basic Training School at four various places near the border zone. So far, we have no report on casualties on either side, but we will disclose them (in a few minutes).

Sandinist War Report

PA100514 (Clandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0400 GMT 10 Apr 79 PA

[Text of war report from the Carlos Fonseca Amador Northern Front of the Sandinist National Liberation Front; issued on 9 April 1979--read by announcer]

[Text] The General Staff of the Carlos Fonseca Amador Northern Front reports on the successful increase in its offensive activity beginning with the attack against El Jicaro, Nueva Segovia Department, on 26 March and the latest attacks in various locations in Nueva Segovia Department and in areas in Leon, Esteli, Matagalpa and Jinotega.

The guerrilla columns of the northern front, led by Cmdrs German Pomares Ordonez and Francisco Rivera Ruben, are continuing major attacks against the main roads in Esteli and other important points in the country's north. Several cities and towns were taken over in the past few days. They include: El Sauce, Achuapa, Limay, Condega, Ducuali and Esteli.

The Oscar Fuslos column led by Commander Pomares has inflicted more than 40 casualties on the enemy since the attack on El Jicaro. It has recovered [word indistinct] and weapons, including several Garand rifles. It also reports several comrades wounded.

Moreover, the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Western Front also reports the intensification of the Sandinist offensive since 31 March. It has attacked more than eight Somozist BECAT [Antiterrorist Special Brigade] posts over this period of time, inflicting more than 15 casualties on the National Guard ranks. These actions have been conducted in important areas and on certain main roads in Leon and Chinandega departments.

The joint actions conducted by the Carlos Fonseca Northern Front and the tactical combat units of the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Western Front are also reported.

The Camilo Ortega Central Front, the Ulises Tapia Eastern Front and the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front are also continuing the offensive against the Somozist army.

In view of the coupist guard, Sandinist insurrection!
In the wake of the imperialist maneuvers, Sandinist insurrection!
Long live Sandinist unity!
Death to Somozism!
Free fatherland or death!

[Signed] German Pomares Ordonez and Francisco Rivera Ruben, of the Carlos Fonseca Amador Northern Front

Some where in Nicaragua, 9 April 1979

'Long Live Sandinist Unity'

PA100559 (Clandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0400 GMT 10 Apr 79 PA

[Text] In the northern and northwestern sections of the country, Sandinist forces united in a single bloc are harassing and hitting tyrant Somoza's genocidal hordes hard. Following are (?details):

On Saturday evening in the heroic city of Esteli, according to reports by local eyewitnesses, 200 armed Sandinist combatants came down into the city, taking control of it. It is still in our control. We have also been informed that the well-aimed Sandinist weapons were able to down two of tyrant Somoza's genocidal planes.

We were informed that at 1300 today members of the criminal hordes were prevented from entering the city. Our comrades are comfortably quartered in the Capsa, Niapsa and Infonac [National Development Institute] offices. The takeover was effected by the Pedro Arauz Palacios Squad [words indistinct] immediately showed their combative might, the combative might of forces [words indistinct]. That is why our operation has been called "long live Sandinist unity."

We also report to you that in view of the supremacy of our forces and the ineffectiveness of the National Guard, Commander Gonzalo Martinez was replaced in an effort to improve the situation.

The harassment of the Sandinist forces has extended to strategic townships of the northwestern part of the country, including (Alapas), (Bucali) and Potosi, and in the cities of Leon and Chinandega they have shown that the popular Sandinist effervescence and the lack of control of the criminal guard over the population are increasing.

On the other hand, we were informed that in El Sauce the population and the city were controlled by 100 Sandinist militants who harangued the population and set fire to public offices. Our forces withdrew from the city today in view of the disproportionate onslaught of cowards such as tyrant Somoza's genocidal hordes.

In Condega, Sandinist combatants came down from the hills and took over the mobile units of the road department. The (?33) Somoza guard members were no obstacle to our heroic forces in conducting the final operation.

It was also reported to us that the city of (?Ocotal) has been occupied since last night by Sandinist comrades. These comrades are directed by Cmdr German Pomares, Rene, and Cmdr Francisco Rivera, Ruben. These comrades have been directly responsible for the heroic operations conducted in the northern part of the country, which are the result of the political-military and organizational work that they performed. All these operations are coordinated by comrades from the national joint leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, which is comprised of Tomas Borge Martinez, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Henry Ruiz, Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Jaime Wheelock, Victor Tirado, Luis Carrion, Carlos Nunez and Gallardo Arce.

This, Nicaraguan brothers, is the news received by Radio Sandino which we report to you today. We also warn that the NOVEDADES headline citing 18 dead insurgents, 5 of whom look like foreigners, is false. [Words indistinct] the facts. We also report that a document on the [word indistinct] of the MPU [United People's Movement] is circulating. We call your attention to it because it is (?informative). The document is of interest to all Nicaraguan brothers.

Further Reportage

PA100547 (Clandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0400 GMT 10 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Nicaraguans, we have more news for you, which has been reported to us by the different war fronts and which we will give to you now. In addition to the news broadcast previously, Radio Sandino reports that in (Junta Piquetes), near the southern border, a criminal National Guard patrol was ambushed. Sgt Jose Lopez H. and Pvt Ramon Medina were killed and several soldiers were wounded.

At 0300 today, the town of Oroquieta was occupied by 50 Sandinist comrades, who occupied the garrison, making almost every soldier there a casualty. At 0600 today, those revolutionary Sandinist forces withdrew without any difficulty after the operation.

We also report to you that Somoza is in Tampa making statements that do not correspond to the reality in Nicaragua, trying to misinform and to isolate Nicaragua from the world. Somoza is trying to make believe abroad that he controls the situation and that there are no problems here in Nicaragua.

Democratic Congressman from Iowa Thomas Harkin arrives tomorrow. He is coming here to interview personalities to learn of our national reality. He will probably submit a report to his party and to the U.S. Congress.

This ends the addition to the news of Radio Sandino.

NATIONAL GUARD REPORTEDLY DEFEATS SANDINISTS AT ESTELI

PA100504 Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0430 GMT 10 Apr 79 PA

[Text] The National Guard Command has reported the crushing isolation [as heard] that its patrols have achieved around the Sandinist outbreak that tried to seize the town of Esteli in the northern region.

Over 35 Sandinists, many of them foreigners, were killed by the people's armed fist--the National Guard.

BLAS ROCA DISCUSSES 8 APRIL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

FL091612 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1332 GMT 9 Apr 79 FL

[News conference held by PCC Politburo member Blas Roca Calderio on results of 8 April municipal elections, at the National Data Processing Center of the National Electoral Commission in Miramar, Havana--live]

[Text] [Roca] The figures we are going to give must be reported as preliminary in certain aspects. However, we already have general results of the elections. The most important thing in the voting figures is the following: We have 6,001,890 voters of whom 5,813,767 have voted. This represents 96.9 percent of the total number of voters. It must be kept in mind that among the voters who did not vote are those who are outside the country and those who, although in this country, for some reason were unable to vote and, naturally, those who did not want to vote. There must be some who did not want to vote.

The percentage of voters who did vote shows the great willingness of our people to support the elections, a demonstration of their consciousness and a demonstration of the politico-moral unity of our people around the revolutionary government presided over by our leader and guide Comrade Fidel.

These were the general results of the elections, and they are highly positive and encouraging. They are in keeping with the enthusiasm and desire of our people to overcome current difficulties, overcome underdevelopment, laugh at the blockade and continue ahead with the building of socialism.

An interesting thing in these elections is....[Roca changes thought] Someone took some papers I had here, and now I do not have them, and I was giving special consideration to those papers. During these elections, the first round, the number of delegates [to People's Government Municipal Assemblies elected] during this first round is 9,683, which is considerably greater than the number elected during the first round of the previous elections when 7,912 delegates were elected and 2,802 remained waiting to be elected [during the second round]. In the current elections, with 6,000-odd [as heard] delegates elected in the first round, we have only 912 remaining to be elected in the second round. In other words, approximately one third of the number of delegates that had to go to the second round in the previous elections.

In this first round, 673 women were elected, or more than in the first round of the previous elections. This is a good sign. Of course, we still are far from reaching the total number of woman delegates elected in the previous elections, which was, as you may recall, 857. To reach this figure or exceed it slightly, we would need to elect 200 women in the second round. This is possible because of the number of electoral districts that have to hold a second round. But we still would have to elect 200 women in the second round to exceed slightly the number of women elected [in the past elections].

In any case, it must be said that in the first round of the previous elections the total percentage of women elected was, let me see, I have it here, (6.4) percent, while the ones elected in this first round represent 7 percent of the total number of elected delegates. Therefore, percentage-wise, more women have been elected in the first round of these elections than in the previous elections.

General voting figures show a very high percentage of voters. Independent of those who are abroad, hospitalized and cannot vote, and so forth, the percentage of voters in these elections--forgetting those who are abroad and others who could not vote--was 96.9 percent of the total number of registered voters.

In other words, a high general percentage, which gives much satisfaction. It shows that this time our voters have been more interested in voting. It shows a higher degree of politico-moral unity of our people around the revolution. This higher number of votes is an incentive for the elected delegates to raise the quality of their services. It is a greater force that is communicated to these delegates for the work they must do. It is a greater force for the executive and management agencies to which they [presumably the delegates] should raise their big problems in their work, expecting the various committees to administer to the different interests of the people. I believe these were the most important and most prominent results of the voting in these elections.

Certain provinces had high voting percentages. For example, Matanzas had 98.4 percent, Cienfuegos 97.4 percent, Villa Clara 98.4 percent, Las Tunas 97.9 percent, Granma 97.3 percent, Santiago de Cuba 97.6 percent and other provinces with high voting percentages. The latter include Pinar del Rio with 97.6 percent and Havana City Province with 94.7 percent, which is important given the complexity of Havana City Province and its real difficulties, which are greater than those of other provinces.

This is the general picture. Nationally, [the figure is] 96.6 percent which, I repeat, is a high percentage that is very encouraging with regard to the importance that our people have given to their vote.

The second round is unevenly distributed. Some [provinces] have more and others have fewer [delegates to be elected]. Generally, there are just a few. Pinar del Rio has 36 electoral districts to hold the second round, Havana has 81, Havana City 285, Matanzas 71, Cienfuegos 2. Therefore, Cienfuegos has the least, and they can be easily watched. Sancti Spiritus has 30, Villa Clara 79, Ciego de Avila 11, Camaguey 80, Las Tunas 49.

There is just one problem in these elections. We began the entire election process with 10,657 electoral districts. Now, and we do not know what trick was used, an electoral district has disappeared while the people voted, voted again, nominated candidates and all that. We have put the nation's best detectives to find out where it disappeared, how it disappeared and how this could have happened. We cannot give an answer now, but we are certain at the end of a broad investigation we will know how an electoral district can disappear completely without leaving any trace. That is true. It is a big electoral district.

[Question indistinct]

[Roca] What? No, no. We have put everything into action to see if we can find out.

[Question indistinct]

[Roca] The problem....[changes thought] That is the question, that it is [something done by] youngsters, and it could be a youngsters' prank, and we have lost an electoral district. Where could they have put it? Where can an electoral district be hidden? We do not know. [words indistinct] For the time being, we are resigned to having only 10,656 electoral districts and forgetting about this one until the mystery is solved. It gives a plot for a police novel, a somewhat interesting one. It is Electoral District 76.

[Question indistinct]

[Roca] It can be given. It is a very rare thing.

It is not a very big province where [words indistinct]. Instead, it is a single municipality which does not have....[changes thought] It is the Isle of Youth Special Municipality. It has disappeared. How could this happen? At least they did not increase the number of electoral districts, because that would have created a crisis since [words indistinct]. No noteworthy accident has occurred in which all residents of the electoral districts were killed. There has not been an atomic radiation leak, such as those that occur in the United States, capable of exterminating an entire community and creating problems. We did not have there any criminal Pol Pot capable of making an entire community disappear. [words indistinct]

[Question indistinct]

[Roca] There was no traffic accident, but that is an idea. There were no traffic accidents, no injuries, no suicides. Nothing like that happened in the elections. Now, the delegates already elected and the ones still to be elected have a commitment to advance the country's projects. In the first place, [they have a commitment to] the sugar harvest, sugar cane planting, promotion of production in all its aspects, completion of projects started so that they can begin to produce and constant improvement of the country's administrative and economic management. They are committed to this and they have to get started. Moreover, the world demands an increasingly intense campaign of solidarity with Vietnam, of solidarity with the Palestinian people and Arab peoples betrayed by the so-called ~~As~~-Sadat-Begin peace treaty, and solidarity with movements which require assistance and understanding in the world.

The ones who have been elected, the ones who have been candidates, and all who have taken part in the elections cannot take a breather but should launch themselves into these new tasks once the election process is completed. There is an outstanding cane cutter who cuts 1,000 arrobas daily with his machete and he has just been elected delegate. He has been elected for the second round [words indistinct] and it shows how the relationship between the tasks [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Roca] In most cases, the president of the polling place went to (fiestas) with the same comrades who worked in the previous elections in order to take advantage of their experiences. Moreover, it is obvious [words indistinct] that women were preferred when time came to form the electoral tables. In the same manner, these women practically did not sleep the night before elections. They went to the polling places very early. They did their job with a wonderful willingness and attitude, as if they had spent 20 years doing this job. Therefore, it was very good. Now then, the participation of women at the electoral tables has been very efficient and very good. There was much willingness to work, much initiative. Everything was very good.

[Question indistinct]

[Roca] The Pioneers were on time [at the polling places]. They were prepared and performed their functions perfectly. This must be said. Everywhere I went, the participation of the Pioneers and the seriousness with which they relieved each other in the beautiful changing of the guard ceremony were noteworthy and very good. In fact, they were at their places very early.

In some cases, it seemed to me that it was exaggerated, because they were awakened at 0400 to begin working at 0600. It seems to have been slightly exaggerated. It was more normal in other places; they were allowed to sleep half an hour more and were awakened at 0430, and by 0600 the Pioneers were at their places. There were enough of them for all the electoral districts, so that they would not be tired. They all had their sleep.

The youngsters [words indistinct] they acted with much discretion, discipline, seriousness. It really was admirable.

[Unidentified questioner] The Giron drive [production and other activities marking anniversary of 1961 Giron invasion] is being held this month, and a great number of workers have been mobilized. Do you believe that this election process is a great homage to the Cuban people's victory in Giron?

[Roca] I believe that the result of this electoral mobilization is part of all the enthusiasm of our people when they commemorate the Giron victory. It is part of that. From the beginning, we sought to mentally relate one thing with the other, to let [the elections] be an expression of remembrance and homage to the battle in Giron. That battle lasted only 72 hours. However, in order to win it in 72 hours, there were 72 months of preparation. And the same thing is happening to us [with the elections]. We still cannot say we have won, because we still have 15 April, [date of second round] but at least we have won this first part in 24 hours [words indistinct] and the results [words indistinct] victory in Giron. If we had not won in Giron, we could not have held these elections, and we would be suffering the cruellest repression, as it always happens when the dominant classes see themselves defeated and try to take over power again.

[Question indistinct]

[Roca] Well, it must be said that Matanzas Province from the beginning [words indistinct]. Matanzas Province worked well and with good organization during the preparatory phase of assemblies. There were no difficulties, and there was no need to make changes. Everything was clear and done well. I believe they have done a magnificent job, and the results are clear. The high voting percentage in Matanzas Province is no coincidence. It is not a spontaneous thing. It is the result of a job well done in every aspect--propaganda, mobilization and, above all, organization work. It must also be said [that this is true] very especially in the strict compliance with instructions they received from the National Electoral Commission.

[Unidentified Questioner] However, the province with the highest percentage in comparison with the previous elections was Cienfuegos [words indistinct]

[Roca] It is another province that has distinguished itself from the beginning. [words indistinct] We have had the best results in the provinces which from the beginning began to take all necessary measures and adjust to the instructions of the National Electoral Commission. Of course, Cienfuegos Province yesterday was expecting the visit of dear Comrade Zhivkov and Fidel and, naturally, it wanted to welcome them with the honor of having really performed in these elections, of having achieved a high voting percentage, of being well organized. [There was] no need to call them back or anything like that. Everything [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Roca] We can talk about Villa Clara Province, which had 98.4 voting percentage. It also had very good results. It is a complex province, and in spite of that, Villa Clara Province was outstanding with a 98.4 voting percentage. It deserves our congratulations.

[Question indistinct]

[Roca] Fidel's call to the citizens of Holguin to vote early was heard, of course, and the citizens mobilized themselves very well. What did not work well there were the commissions and the organization.

I think that the organization work was not equal to the citizens and not equal to the call made by Fidel. That is the truth.

[Unidentified questioner] Going back to the topic of women elected in this first round, we see on the blackboard that [words indistinct].

[Roca] This is traditional. Havana always elects more women than the rest [of the provinces]. This has become a tradition. The reason for this could be that women in Havana are more incorporated into the country's general tasks; that is, they have a greater incorporation because of Havana's greater development, which tends to facilitate women's incorporation into the various activities, not only economic activities but also political activities and those dealing with leadership in mass organizations and so forth. That could be the only explanation to this. I believe, and this is my personal opinion without further confirmation, that if Havana, as a city with a greater industrial and cultural development in many aspects, is compared to the rest of the provinces, the concept of equality is more prevalent in Havana's population; men and women have fewer prejudices such as machismo or subordination of women and so forth. In the rest of the country, the old concepts still prevail, the old customs. As you all know, these ills prevail wherever development is smaller, wherever the old structures remain. Here in Havana great changes have taken place. My opinion is that the women's participation is greater in Havana. As you can see, here we have more intellectuals, journalists, organization activists of the female sex; more women holding important political posts. I believe this should be studied. The social science graduates should be assigned the task of studying this.

[Unidentified questioner] Blas, how does the Electoral Commission evaluate the efforts of the Corralillo Municipality, which recorded 99.9 percent of the electorate casting ballots? Out of more than 16,000 registered voters, only seven failed to cast their ballots. These could be comrades who were absent, participating in internationalist missions or studying abroad or something similar. How does the Electoral Commission evaluate this one municipality of many in the country which demonstrated a great effort?

[Roca] I believe that something like that could only occur in a very small municipality, very small, where the conditions are such that it is possible to try to get everybody to vote. In a large municipality this cannot be done. The distances are greater, relations are different and so forth. That is my opinion. This could have happened in Corralillo. This could have happened in Yateras. This could have happened in La Sierpe. This could have happened in small municipalities such as these. I believe that it could only happen in those municipalities.

[Unidentified questioner] You have always stressed the importance of the means of communications we use for the computation and compilation of all figures received in the National Electoral Commission, not only the more developed means, but also those provided by nature. We would like to hear from you on those means of communicating figures, means which are very difficult, such as in the case of carrier pigeons, mules or other animals in very isolated areas. How did communications function in the specific case of these elections?

[Second unidentified questioner] Just to contribute to the answer, I would like to say the following: I understand that in Ega Grande, Baracoa, the first reports furnished were carried by a carrier pigeon, and the first known elected delegate, Miguel Romero, was learned of here as a result of a report carried by a carrier pigeon. How can the problem of communications be examined in the context of the entire electoral process?

[Roca] Well, I have always granted importance to communications work, because it makes it possible for us to learn the results of the elections sooner.

That fast service is a great contribution toward insuring the honesty of the process. Delays could be used to change figures or to do something that is wrong.

Therefore, the role of communications is important, extremely important. Not only in this aspect; communications service is important for the economy, for social relations, for family problems: summing up, communications service is something on which we have to rely to a very large degree. It must be said that the comrades of the Communications Ministry, that is the Communications Ministry, the communications workers throughout the country, have performed admirably to serve the electoral process. They have been at the service of the electoral process, and have worked perfectly. We have not encountered any difficulties; that is, we have not had any cases in which an interruption in communications has not been overcome rapidly. In a certain canefield, some communications posts were burned down and, prior to having a need for them, they were back in service. That was the situation in this sector. This is very important.

Naturally, in organizing a system of information in something as important as the elections, bearing in mind that there are still very remote locations in the country despite the fact that we are a small country--we have remote and isolated places; we have difficulties in getting modern communications equipment and so forth--nevertheless, we have to depend on the old means of communications, the ones used in the past. We have the carrier pigeons, why not use them? Vega Grande is a place in Baracoa very far from other places. It takes a lot of time for a jeep to reach it, and the carrier pigeon flies faster than the jeep. The carrier pigeons do not find any potholes in their path and carry the information fast. When the documents have to be forwarded, then the jeep takes them because the pigeons cannot carry heavy loads. It can only carry a small piece of paper. It will not carry a heavy load. There are only two problems for the pigeons, a heavy rain or nightfall due to a total eclipse. The pigeons cannot find their way in the dark. But we did not have an eclipse, nor did it get dark early or rain. Everything turned out well. Vega Grande is not the only case of this type. There were other places where this type of communication was used as the principal means.

In other places, the principal means of communications were launches, a fast boat which had to travel through difficult areas to reach its destination. Under the imperialist guns, the launches crossed the seas and brought the information in time. In other places, other means had to be used. There is no other way. This time we did not have the problem we encountered last time, the floods. At the time this was taken into consideration, that the rivers were going to overflow then, but we were able to fulfill the task of communications, this has been developed in everything. It is appropriate for us to have a feeling of gratitude and admiration for the comrades of the Communications Ministry and for its workers.

[Unidentified questioner] How do you evaluate the way in which the electoral process developed in the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]; that is, the special voting districts? We have talked about provinces; I would like to know your opinion in that respect.

[Roca] Well, the process in the FAR developed very well. The FAR has certain characteristics which guarantee the process with greater dynamism. The nominations were made in the established time and manner without problems. The characteristic thing in the FAR is that many men are nominated. There are very few women in the FAR, but there are some. They did not forget the principle of the struggle for women's equality. They did very well with regard to time. At all places they finished voting early. The bugle sounded, formation was ordered and everybody went to cast their ballots. Ninety-six percent of the registered voters cast their ballots. The ones who did not cast ballots were absent. They could not cast ballots. They were unable to vote.

We are sure that 100 percent of those who could vote cast their ballots. But the record shows only 96 percent.

[Unidentified questioner] Blas, one question. The percentage of those voting early was high. I believe we have not mentioned here the effort of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] and mass organizations to accomplish this.

[Roca] That is true. You are right. I can see you want to defend the CDR. [laughter in the crowd] The CDR work has been very good. They have worked well. They mobilized with great efficiency, and the results are excellent. The appeals made by the Federation of Cuban Women, the Central Organization of Cuban Workers and other organizations; the leaders of the Education Ministry, very especially Education Minister Asela de los Santos, and other comrades have had excellent results. If we are going to mention all those who have contributed to this beautiful success of our elections, we must say that the journalists, means of communication such as radio, television, newspapers, have given an extraordinary attention to the process, above all in recent days. They have made an enormous contribution to the process. This must be pointed out. There were very good reports, some erroneous but corrected in time, which served the purpose of this great mobilization. The registered voters had a real mass orientation through these means of communication which made a great contribution to the dissemination and mobilization of the electoral process. I believe that the CDR, mass organizations and the communications organs did excellent work in organization and mobilization for the success of the elections.

[Question indistinct]

[Roca] Electoral absenteeism in capitalist countries is the result of the regime's decay, of the absolute lack of confidence in the institutions, which increasingly appear to be at the service of capitalism, at the service of exploitation, institutions which in reality do not serve the people. A deputy or councilman elected in a capitalist country becomes his own man after being elected. He can use these posts for personal gain, to enrich himself without regard for the voters' interests. In our case the institution itself makes this impossible. Right now in the midst of the electoral process we had the case of a delegate dismissed because he committed this, or this, or that, and derived personal benefits from this, that or that, violating the established rules. Well, he kept on doing it as long as there was no way of knowing what he was doing. He has been dismissed. The electorate did not accept him. The electorate decided that he could not continue to be the delegate and elected another one. This new delegate, having the experience of what happened to the one he replaced, will avoid making the same mistakes. You have seen the repeal of the Las Palmas Municipality's executives in Pinar del Rio [Province]. They committed wrongs, very bad things. They held meetings and the consumption of beer amounted to 10 bottles per participant. Obviously they could not discuss any serious business in those meetings after drinking 10 bottles of beer each. This could not be tolerated. The voters did not tolerate it, and the executives were repealed. In addition, they committed other irregularities. They thought that because they had been designated to the posts, they owned everything and had the right to dispose of everything at their pleasure. The importance of this is that the case was not overlooked.

The act takes place--why? Why does it occur? Because of the comrade's quality, his work, his biography, what he has done and so forth. He is elected. But his is a phenomenon appropriate to human psychology. Take a quiet, pleasant and responsible man, assign him a post, give him a badge, put a club in his hand and he becomes an aggressive man who beats up everybody and creates problems. That is, psychologically, the club and the gun at his waist make him omnipotent. This happens to many people. In these cases the first thing to do is not to give him a club so that he might not be tempted. Aside from that, continued educational and ideological work and so forth tends to make these comrades better.

These few cases of undesirable manifestations in the behavior of delegates and members of executive committees give us the opportunity to call to the attention of all others that this cannot be done here and that the rule is absolute administrative honesty, the strict fulfillment of the rules dealing with the people's problems. This is not the case over there. [probably refers to capitalist countries] That is why they have absenteeism over there. That is why we have 97 percent of the electorate casting ballots here; the confidence is greater. Moreover, another reason for the 97 percent is the repealing. Yes, that is another reason. [laughter in the crowd] The people mobilize for electing and recalling. That is a guarantee. The voter is convinced that the delegate is a representative who must pay attention to what he has to say. The representative does not own the voter. On the contrary, the voter owns the representative.

[Unidentified questioner] Going back to the recall, how many recalls have there been in the first round?

[Roca] I would say there have been the normal amount. The number of recalled candidates is neither very large nor below requirements. All those who deserved it were recalled for different reasons. Some were recalled for mishandling, others for moral misconduct, others for mismanagement, for laziness. In reality, these have been the reasons for the recalls. The voters have acted correctly. The institution was established so that it would work and it has worked. As time passes on there will be fewer recalls. I believe that in 25 or 30 years there will be no more recalls. People learn. In these 25 or 30 years there will be some recalls.

[Unidentified questioner] What can you tell us about the installation of the delegates who were elected yesterday and those who will be elected next Sunday in the second round?

[Roca] As you all know, 15 days after the second round of the electoral process, that is 2 weeks after, they will be sworn in. They do not need a convocation to meet. They are elected and 2 weeks later they meet. That means that on Sunday, 29 April, the Municipal Assemblies will hold meetings. They already know where to meet and will have to be there at 0900 hours for the meeting. They will designate the members of the committee which will review the certificates of election to determine if they are correct. They will then elect the president and the members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee elects its president, that is the acting president who usually is the oldest and the secretaries are the youngest. As was done last time, they take the oath and begin to act. Their first action is to elect the delegates to the Provincial Assembly and that ends the first meeting. The delegates will receive their certificates of election, their identification as delegates. Something must be done to improve our very bad lapel insignia. It looks very bad, poor quality. It is not easy to put it on. It is very easily misplaced or dropped. Something better stronger must be designed so that we have better results. When someone ceases to be a delegate, he must surrender the identification, the insignia. If he is no longer a delegate, he does not need the identification or the insignia. As a memento they may keep the certificate of election so that they may show it to the children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren. I do not know if there is anyone [words indistinct] after the great-grandchildren. If there is then he can also show it to him. They may keep the certificate as a memento. Jose Luis did not believe there were [word indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Roca] The delegate elected in the past elections will continue in his post until 29 April. On 29 April, he ceases to be a delegate because the new Municipal Assembly is established and his certificate of election is invalidated. The new delegates replace the old ones.

[Unidentified questioner] If the comrades have no other questions, it would be appropriate to urge the comrades to get out and vote in the second round.

[Roca] Susana proposes that the registered voters mobilize with the same enthusiasm, the same determination and the same effort to participate in the second round. I believe Comrade Susana's proposal should be supported by all.

[Unidentified questioner] It will be supported by all means of communications.

[Roca] That is correct. By all means, everybody should contribute to the success of the second round. Beginning Tuesday or Wednesday, we will intensify all efforts for the second round. Is there anything else?

[Unidentified questioner] As you said at the beginning, the first round was very successful. In this press conference we have discussed recalls, and problems of organization, but overall we believe that the people have greatly supported the institution with 96.9 percent of the electorate casting ballots.

[Roca] The watchword has been fulfilled; to give a great thrust to the people's government in the electoral process.

FIDEL CASTRO, ZHIVKOV DEDICATE FACTORY IN CIENFUEGOS

FL091124 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1110 GMT 9 Apr 79 FL

[Excerpts] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Bulgarian Communist Party First Secretary Todor Zhivkov have dedicated in Cienfuegos a modern sprinkler irrigation pipes and accessories factory built with the cooperation of that fraternal country at an approximate cost of 20 million pesos.

Zhivkov and Fidel toured the factory which will annually produce 9,000 km of plastic pipes of various diameters and other equipment. The factory will carry the name of Bulgarian revolutionary (Vasil Lepchiv).

In brief statements to the press, Todor Zhivkov said: The most impressive thing is that Cuba has become a construction camp. We are happy that our friend Comrade Fidel and I have inaugurated this factory, which is the result of Cuban-Bulgarian friendship and Bulgarian-Cuban friendship, he added. In other words, the Bulgarian State Council chairman concluded, we want to congratulate everyone who used his talent and labor at this factory of the city of Cienfuegos to put it in operation, and we hope it will soon be able to operate in two shifts as planned.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON POLISH PREMIER'S VISIT

For a joint communique published in the Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU on the 25-30 March official visit to Cuba by Polish Premier Piotr Jaroszewicz, see the Poland section of the 9 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

BAHAMAS

SOCIALISTS CRITICIZE 'HARBORING' OF SHAH

FL100140 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Apr 79 p 1 FL

[By Anthony Forbes]

[Text] The Vanguard Socialist Party today strongly condemned the Bahamas Government for giving refuge to Iran's self-exiled Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi from revolutionary justice by Iran's new Islamic government. The Vanguard said the shah, wanted by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's revolutionary government for alleged crimes against the Iranian people, should be consigned "to the dustbin of history."

In a statement critical of the government, the Vanguard said the shah's surprise visit is the price the Bahamas must pay for being "the backyard playground of the Western world." The Vanguard also called on Bahamians not to allow their country to be used "temporarily or permanently" as a haven by the exiled Iranian monarch. "The shah's visit and that on again, off again stay of the fugitive Robert Vesco is the price we pay to remain the backyard playground of the West," the Vanguard statement said.

The shah, who fled Iran on January 16, a few days before Khomeini, Iran's Shiite Moslem leader, took power, flew here Friday from Morocco where he had been staying since leaving Egypt on January 22. The shah and his family are "paying guests" of Resorts International Chairman James Crosby on Paradise Island.

The Vanguard said that there is quite a "similarity" between the leadership of the Bahamas and that provided by the shah and his politicians over the past decade in Iran.

"That the shah has chosen the Bahamas and is staying at Paradise Island, the centre of international finance that controls the government of the PLP [Progressive Liberal Party] and the opposition parties BDP/RNM [Bahamian Democratic Party/Free National Movement] as indicated in a recent resorts disclosure is significant," said Vanguard.

"It is significant because should the financiers that control this all but private island decide to play permanent host to the shah, Prime Minister Pindling might just be powerless to refuse the shah government protection out of the hard-earned tax monies of the Bahamian people."

The Vanguard pointed out that the shah is unwanted in most major capitals of the world, including the United States, that had served so well but is now afraid of the embarrassment it would cause and the problems it would create with the Arabs, the major U.S. oil suppliers. "The shah is wanted by the revolutionary government of Ayatollah Khomeini for decades of brutal crimes against the Iranian people, and extorting more than \$25 million worth of their money," Vanguard charged.

Vanguard said that with the "glue" that held Iran's ruling class together broken, the effects are being felt throughout the world and locally in the form of increased gas prices and the arrival of the shah himself.

"Perhaps it is too early to tell whether the shah is seeking the Bahamian Government's approval to use the Bahamas as a means to escape justice in his homeland, or is he is just a tourist," said the Vanguard. The Vanguard said that allowing the shah to settle in the Bahamas if he desires would be like allowing Sir Eric Gairy, Grenada's former prime minister, or embattled Ugandan President Idi Amin to use the Bahamas as a refuge from escaping revolutionary justice of their respective countries.

"Consequently, Iran is in the midst of historical change," said the Vanguard. "Similarly, the Bahamian workers desirous of change in the Bahamas would have to converge into one striking force, led by the working class movement, rise up and chase the local shah and the shah himself, should he stay, from our shores and throw them all into the dustbins of history," the Vanguard said.

An "angry Bahamian," in a letter to the editor today said that the government is "very inconsistent" for giving support for the fight against racism and apartheid in southern Africa and then allowing an important ally of the South African Government to enter the Bahamas.

"His (shah's) atrocities against his people and his support of the racist regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia is well known. Why has our government permitted Resorts International to harbour such an international fugitive from justice? Does this constitute yet another service in exchange for 'contributions' to the PLP?" the author of the letter asked.

The letter said that no country that advocates justice and the basic dignity of man should play "unofficial" host to the shah. "The government is very inconsistent to first give token support to South African fighters against apartheid, and then to allow an important ally of the racist South African Government to enter, whether as a private citizen or as Mr James Crosby's privileged guest," the author of the letter wrote. The author said: "Resorts International does not own the Bahamas, or does it? It is up to the government to prove that we are indeed an independent and sovereign country." The shah has been cold-shouldered by many countries who are reluctant to give him refuge. Iran's revolutionary government has said repeatedly that they will seek to bring the shah back to Iran and will take harsh measures against any country that allows him to settle in.

GRENADA

BISHOP SEES INVASION THREAT; REQUESTS AID OF CUBA, OTHERS

Mercenary Invasion Threat

PA062224 Paris AFP in Spanish 1435 GMT 6 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Port of Spain, 6 Apr (AFP)--Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop revealed here today that a group of anti-Castroite mercenaries recruited by former Prime Minister Eric Gairy is planning to invade Grenada. In a news conference carried by radio, Bishop added that according to reports received from the Caribbean countries, Gairy has contacted the Condor group, made up of Cuban exiles living in Miami, in order to recruit from its members a group of mercenaries to invade Grenada. Several members of this anti-Castroite group were responsible for the attack on a Cuban plane in Trinidad and Tobago in October 1976 which resulted in 73 deaths.

Aid Requests

PA091522 Paris AFP in Spanish 1450 GMT 9 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Saint Georges, 9 Apr (AFP)--Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop announced today that the Grenadian revolutionary regime will ask Cuba, Venezuela and other countries for assistance in coping with the threat of a counter coup. Speaking to 5,000 persons in the town of Sauter, 80 km from Saint Georges, the leader of the revolutionary movement that overthrew former Grenadian Chief of Government Eric Gairy on 13 March added that the counter coup is being organized abroad to invade the island.

A request for technical and military assistance from Venezuela is being considered by that country's government, and we have made similar requests to the U.S. Government, Great Britain and Canada, the Grenadian prime minister said.

He added: We have also asked the governments of Cuba and other Caribbean countries for assistance in military training so as to prevent an attack planned by mercenaries against our country. We clearly recognize not only that the Cubans are our neighbors in the Caribbean, Prime Minister Bishop noted, but also that in several parts of the world, especially in connection with the African liberation struggles, and when people have been most oppressed and disillusioned, the Cubans have gone to their assistance and have fought to defend them. We expect our government to be recognized by Havana in the next few days and we will try to establish diplomatic relations so we can receive material and technical assistance with which to protect and defend our revolution against all its enemies and foreign forces of aggression, Bishop said.

The chief of the Grenadian revolutionary government also denied Trinidad press reports that 12 Cuban military advisers had collaborated in the 13 March revolution.

Today's event was the fourth in a series of victory rallies in which the prime minister has alerted the Grenadian people to the threat of a counter coup, which in his opinion is being organized by the former chief of government who was overthrown last 13 March.

Contacts With Cuba

PA091744 Paris AFP in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Bridgetown, 9 Apr (AFP)--The Grenadian revolutionary government has contacted Cuba to negotiate for military aid to confront a possible invasion by mercenaries recruited to restore former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy to power, informed sources reported here today. The sources said that Maurice Bishop, the new prime minister of Grenada, disclosed to close friends that he had contacted President Fidel Castro's regime.

ECCA TO PROVIDE CURRENCY; COARD DEMANDS GUARANTEES

FL061455 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 3 Apr 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Saint Georges, Grenada, 2 Apr (CANA)--The West Indies Associated States [WISA] agreed to allow the East Caribbean Currency Authority (ECCA) to ship EC \$3 million to Grenada as requested by the new revolutionary government led by Maurice Bishop. Finance Minister Bernard Coard said today his government had received a cable from the ECCA saying that "WISA ministers have reversed their decision to suspend the shipment." The money will be placed on a chartered flight to Grenada tomorrow. The Saint Kitts-based ECCA is the monetary authority of the Leeward and Windward Islands, which all use an Eastern Caribbean dollar.

Mr Coard said the WISA ministers had suspended the shipment indefinitely as a measure directed to bring about the collapse of the Grenadian economy and to show their disapproval of the armed overthrow of the Gairy government on March 13.

Mr Coard added that his government was still not satisfied with the attitude of certain ministers whom he referred to as "tin gods." And so, he said, "we are insisting on receiving from the other WISA territories a written as well as published statement that this and any other attempts at economic dislocation and sabotage will never happen again."

"We want a written assurance because we cannot afford that in two or three or four weeks from now, some of these territories, on the basis of any whims and fancies, may reintroduce this or any other measures of sabotage against us. If we do not get the assurance from the other territories, then we will have no choice but to proceed with setting up our own central bank and currency during the course of the coming year," Mr Coard said.

GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL IMPORT OF FOOD STAPLES

FLO41836 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 79 FL

[Text] The new government in Grenada has announced its intention to take over the importation of a number of food staples. Rice will be the first item to be handled by a new national importing board established to help control the consumer costs of certain basic items. In explaining the plan, Grenada's new Finance Minister Bernard Coard said sugar will be the next to be brought under the control of the government. In the case of rice, a reduction of some 8 percent of the retail price is expected to result from this new arrangement, and within the next few months there will be a price cut of between 4 and 7 percent for sugar. Mr Coard said his government had discovered that some merchants had a monopoly on rice imports and many trading commodities, [which] brought the control step.

JAMAICA

PRIME MINISTER MANLEY MEETS WITH KOSYGIN IN MOSCOW

FLO91839 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 9 Apr 79 FL

[Text] The Soviet Union and Jamaica today began a new and significant phase in their relations with the arrival in Moscow of Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley, who was received at the airport by his Soviet counterpart Aleksey Kosygin. The daily PRAVDA today published a message of greetings for Manley and the Jamaican people that states that the Soviet Union is sure that the conversations between the two nations and leaders will contribute to the strengthening of the mutual friendship.

Recently, Manley expressed satisfaction over the good relations existing between the Soviet Union and Jamaica and, very especially, the ties established between the political parties of the two peoples. Even though the USSR and Jamaica have only 3 years of official relations, the development of bilateral cooperation has been very rapid, and its future is bright, according to statements made by the two sides.

Recently, Jamaica's Prime Minister Michael Manley stated in Kingston that the Soviet Union will always support the underdeveloped countries in their struggle for a new international economic order, based on the principles of a just exchange. Manley noted the consistent support given by the Soviet Union to the national, progressive and liberating struggles throughout the world and, particularly, to southern Africa's patriots.

Jamaica and the USSR cooperate in the spheres of trade, science and technology, sports, navigation and air transportation. When Soviet-Jamaican relations were formalized 3 years ago, a delegation of Jamaican experts traveled to Moscow to make the first contacts aimed at initiating negotiations on economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation between the two countries.